

# Portland Harbor Superfund Site

St. John's Neighborhood Association  
Briefing - Sept 2002

USEPA SF



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# About EPA

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Government
- Agency mission - protect human health and the environment
- Responsible for federal environmental laws - programs often delegated to or carried out by state governments
- Major laws address air, water, hazardous waste, toxic substances and cleanup of contaminated sites



# Superfund

- Federal Government program to clean up the nation's uncontrolled hazardous waste sites
- Law passed in 1980
- National Priorities List - EPA's list of the nation's most contaminated sites
- Two ways for sites to pay for clean up
  - Responsible parties "polluters"
  - Superfund
  - Enforcement first!

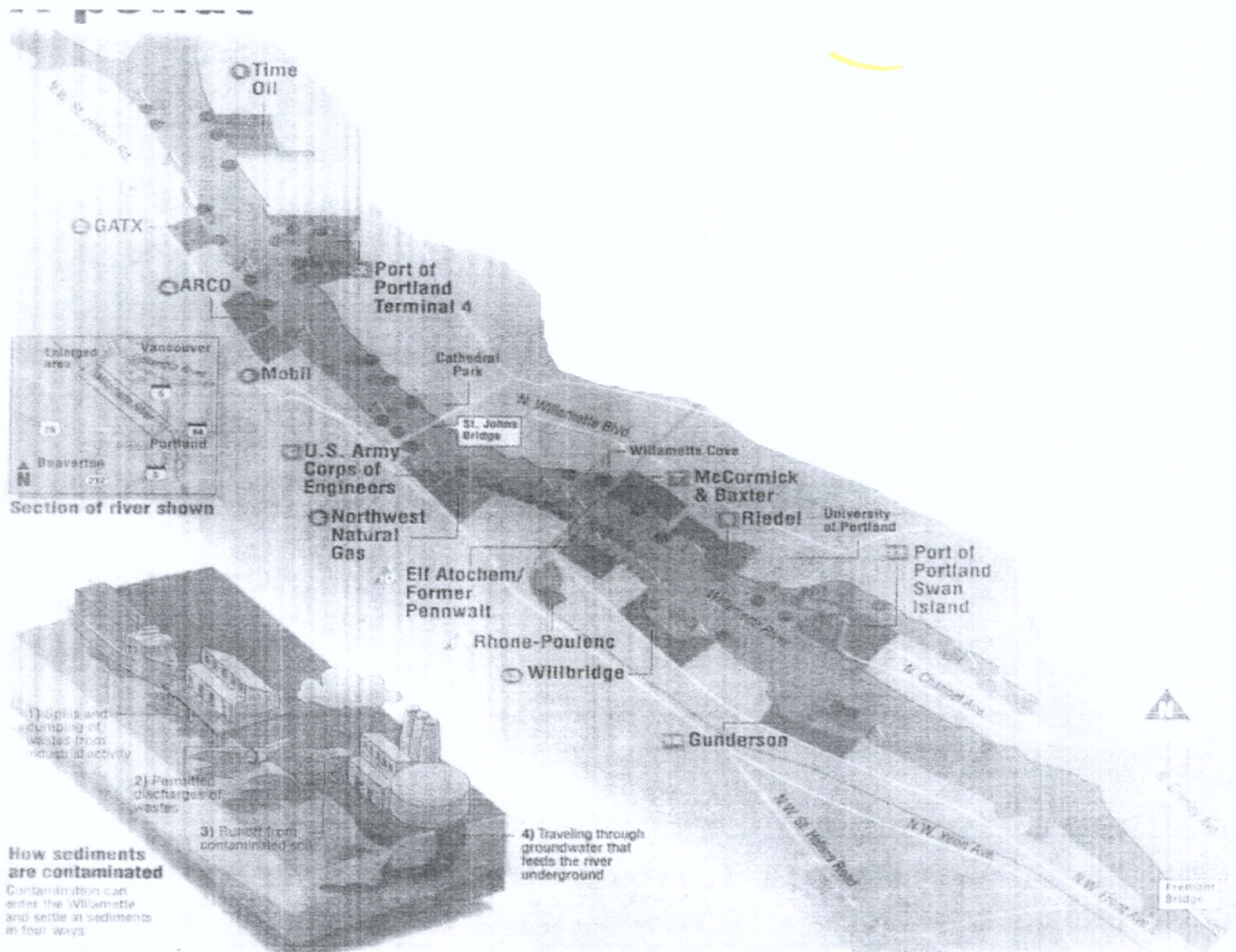
# Superfund Cleanup Process

- Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection
- Hazard Ranking System (HRS) Scoring
- National Priorities List (NPL) Site Listing Process
- Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
- Record of Decision (ROD)
- Remedial Design/Remedial Action
- Operation and Maintenance
- NPL Site Deletion

# Portland Harbor

- Lower Willamette River
- Current and historic industrial activity
  - ship loading and unloading, maintenance & repair
  - petroleum processing and storage
  - wood treating
  - rail car manufacturing
  - oil gasification plant operations
  - chlorine production
  - metal scrapping and recycling





# 1997 Sediment Investigation

- DEQ and EPA joint investigation identified elevated levels of contaminants in shallow near shore sediments
  - metals
  - semivolatile organics
  - tributyltin
  - pesticides, herbicides
  - PCBs
  - Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs)
  - Dioxins, Furans

# **Portland Harbor - NPL**

- Site added to NPL in December 2000
- EPA sent General Notice letters to 69 potentially responsible parties in December 2000



# **Agreement reached to carry out Superfund investigation**

- Administrative Order on Consent
- Nine parties signed agreement - Sept 2001
  - City of Portland, Port of Portland
  - NW Natural, Union Pacific, Gunderson, Time Oil, Chevron, Atofina, Tosco

# Site Management

- EPA will direct in-water investigations
- DEQ will direct uplands investigations
- State and federal natural resource agencies and six tribal governments



# **Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study**

- Characterize site conditions
- Determine nature of contamination
- Assess the risk to human health and the environment
- Develop and evaluate alternative cleanup actions



# Public Health/Risk Issues

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
- Draft Public Health Assessment available
- Human health risk assessment
- Ecological risk assessment



# How Long Will It Take?

- Detailed work plans in late Spring 2002
- Investigations will take 2-3 years
- Early Actions - cleanups during investigations
- Record Decision



# What's happening now?

- Work Plans for Round 1 investigation under review
- EPA has approved fish sampling and collection of fish tissue is underway
- Several species of fish will be collected and analyzed for contaminants this fall

# What other work is being planned?

- Round 1 Sediment sampling and analysis
- Changes in the river characteristics
- Identify areas that should be cleaned up early
- Round 2 sampling
- Risk Assessment
- Cleanup alternatives

# How you can get involved?

- Go to meetings and presentations
- Get on the project mailing list
  - fact sheets
  - post cards
  - meeting notices
- Let EPA know how you would like to be kept informed
- EPA Community Involvement Plan
- EPA and DEQ websites for Portland Harbor



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